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Legislation could limit pseudoephedrine purchases

LANSING – Legislation has been introduced that would require all products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as the sole active ingredient be kept behind a counter where the public is not permitted, Sen. Patty Birkholz and Rep. Rick Jones announced.

Senate Bill 189 also would require a person buying the medication to show valid identification and sign a log book indicating the amount purchased.

“Pseudoephedrine is inappropriately used in the illegal manufacturing of methamphetamine and we are working to curb the high-volume sales of it,” said Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township. “Keeping the medicine behind the counter and keeping track of buyers information will allow pharmacists to control the sale of it. This will help ensure exorbitant amounts are not being purchased by the same person.”

SB 189 allows for medicine that contains ephedrine or pseudoephedrine along with other active ingredients to be exempt from the new rule. It also exempts pediatric products intended for use by children under age 12.

“As a former sheriff, I know first-hand the terrible effects of methamphetamine on users and their families,” said Jones, R-Grand Ledge. “Stopping the production of it is critical to protecting Michigan’s citizens. This legislation is a crucial step in the right direction.”

SB 189 is based on a similar law in Oklahoma. Officials there said there was an immediate and significant drop in methamphetamine production when the law took effect.

Persons who violate the law or produces fake identification would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of not more than two years or a fine of not more than \$2,000, or both.

Jones has introduced an identical bill (HB 4322) in the House of Representatives.

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Comments from Sen. Birkholz regarding pseudoephedrine purchases are available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop.